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the graceful nymph the appearance of high shoulders. I could not understand that painting was by any means exploded in Great Britain and Ireland, though the inconveniences and fatal consequences of such a fashion were so well known. In the year 1807 my Correspondent assured me, that if I came to England, I might easily find that lovely female whom I so much wished for, but that the fashions were at present in such an unsettled state, which proceeded from carelessness, that it would be impossible to describe them. In short I ventured over, and was charmed to find in my friend's garden the appearance of elegant simplicity, but his wife and daughter were such curiously dressed beings, that I did not know whether the exploded or the present fashion was the more disgusting. I upbraided my friend for deceiving me, but he assured me, he was so naturalized to the various whimsical tastes of women, that he had in some measure adopted them. I observed that every time a lady breathed, she seemed oppressed in her chest, and heaved up her shoulders; the waist was indeed short as far as the gown was concerned, but the thin skirt clings very ungracefully to the lower part of the waist and hips, which are closely pinched by whalebone stays. On inquiry I find the stays are not entirely filled with bones, but that on the stomach, and up and down the body as the fancy directs, strong bones are set: by this means the parts which are not thought worthy to be fortified, bulge out most ungracefully, if the girl be fat; and if she be thin, the consequence is not so deforming; but every form is extremely injured by these cruel machines. I wonder when they were first invented, that our mothers did not put them on our more robust bodies. I must tell you that I have brought over a great deal of money, and though I am above forty years of age, yet many girls would be glad to get me, but I will have none of those I see. Could you inform me of any simple, natural looking girl, who would marry a man of forty-five, and promise to renounce the detestable fashions which are continu-

ally succeeding one another? I am at a great loss to know what inducement people have to disfigure themselves; sometimes I attribute it to that activity which prompts mankind to be busy, sometimes to the love of change, and again to the intolerable conceit which makes us think that we can do every thing better than it was done before. This is very well with respect to the works of art, but let no one alter the fair face of nature, perhaps all these reasons may have something to do in the matter, but from some circumstances I may impart to you in future, I am convinced that the principal reason that men and women invent modes of deformity, is, that some trouble and expense are necessary to carry the thing to much extent, therefore the poor people must even leave themselves to nature. These deforming machines also cramp the notions, and hurt the health, and there is nothing so interesting as a helpless, sickly female, but they grow old before their time, and are then not only sickly, but deformed, and tiresomely valetudinary. E.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

AS your magazine has such a widely extended circulation, I wish to consult you on a little matter which has often incommoded me very much. You know when a person is ill, it is natural for him to mention it to his friends, in hopes of meeting sympathy. I learned this custom when my old companion blessed my happy sight, and relieved all my cares and pains; if I tell my landlady that I feel a little of the gout in my toe, she immediately begins a dissertation upon the corn on her toe, which was occasioned by wearing a tight shoe, and for which she had tried every remedy in vain. Indeed it was painful to her that moment, and she was sure it would run to-morrow.

If I complain to my landlady's daughter of a swelled gum, she asks me if her nose looks red and swelled, and begs I would give her a little ointment to grease her chapped lips. This makes me so angry, that I tell her that her nose is red, but not more so than usual, and I recommend

her to anoint her lips with candle grease.

If I tell my landlord that I was wet with a heavy shower as I was coming home he tells me that his hay was injured by the same shower.

Now gentlemen, I wish you to remedy this evil, which is surely one of the "miseries of human life," and advise people not to tell their complaints for at least twenty minutes or an hour (according to the depth of the grievance) after they are complained to, because, as sympathy is one of the chief sources of happiness in society, they are by this mode of conduct deprived of this comfort, and also deprive the complainers of their sympathy; whereas, if they would first enter into my misfortune, and then tell their own, I could not in any decency refuse doing them the same favour, and my gratitude would make me do it most willingly, and with a most cordial and consoling grace, which would be remembered to me again, and thus a reciprocation of kindness would flow on most sweetly and naturally.

Many people who do not sympathize with me in this misery, might say that many old people would weary their neighbours with tales of their sickness, if they were attended to, and sympathized with, but they are mistaken, as my plan would lessen the discourse on sickness very much. In the first place there would be a chance of my friend forgetting the ailment of which my complaint reminded him, before the proper time arrived for communicating it; and in the next place when we are sure of meeting sympathy, we are afraid it will amount to pain in the mind of our friend, so that we do not dwell much on such discourse for that reason.

Yours,

AN OLD VALETUDINARIAN.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

*REMARKS ON M'S ACCOUNT OF COLONEL JEPHSON'S PROLOGUE.

GENTLEMEN,

THOUGH it may appear rather late to advert to any thing in

* The present Conductor of the Maga-

your number for August 1809, yet the distance from Belfast to London, where, I have the pleasure to assure you your useful work is much approved and commended, and my not having had a convenient opportunity of conveying this to you before, will, I hope, be a sufficient apology. Pleased as I was with Lord Mountjoy or Colonel Jephson's prologue, page 130 vol. III. I could wish to be informed, how the old Irish chieftain disposed of his half boots and saffion sleeves, as his legs and arms were bare. His sleeves, indeed, I may presume, were merely ornamental, like those of Thady's great-coat in Miss Edgeworth's delightful story of Castle Rackrent, and never the worse for wear: but then, how were the half boots managed? They were not slung over the shoulders by way of ornament too, I should suppose I am, gentlemen, your sincere admirer and well wisher, S.N.

London, June 5, 1810.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

APPENDIX, NO. 3, TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ROADS, &c.

Extract of a Letter from William Jessop, esq. Butterfly.

THE principal use that we have made of cylindric wheels has been in the carriage of heavy goods or materials on a private road of about two miles in length, chiefly in one horse carts with six inch wheels, but till within twelve months past we have used other common carriages, and even now there are some of the latter sort, as we have only increased the number of those with proper wheels as the others have

zine, wishing to excuse errors which occurred before it was submitted to his superintendence, as well as those of a later date, begs leave to suggest to S. N. that a passage similar to that to which he objects, occurs in the works of a celebrated English poet.

"A painted vest prince Vortigern had on,
Which from a naked Pict his grandsire won."

It will be time enough therefore for the author of the prologue to account for the management of O'Neil's boots, when S. N. can show how the naked Pict wore his vest.